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Summary record of the 7th meeting
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Chairman: Mr. Kuchinsky ..... (Ukraine)
later: Ms. Groux (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Switzerland)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 94: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all (*continued*) (A/C.3/59/L.15)

1. **Mr. Gansukh** (Mongolia) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.15 entitled "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all" and announced that Suriname and Venezuela had joined the sponsors. Informal consultations on the draft resolution had been requested.

Agenda item 96: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/59/77, A/59/123-E/2004/90, A/59/175, 187, 203, 204, 205 and A/59/383-S/2004/758; A/C.3/59/L.3-L.9)

Agenda item 97: International drug control (*continued*) (A/59/124-S/2004/532 and A/59/188)

2. **Mr. Barriga** (Liechtenstein) said that multilateral action was indispensable in coping with the challenges of terrorism, transnational organized crime, trafficking, smuggling of migrants, corruption and money-laundering. The machinery established by the United Nations system in recent years to counter those scourges was impressive. Liechtenstein had signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption (General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex) and the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General resolution 55/25, annex), and had ratified all the conventions and protocols in the area of counter-terrorism.

3. Standard-setting in crime prevention and criminal justice depended on effective national implementation and cooperation between States. His Government was willing to assist other States with capacity-building, particularly in the area of modernizing legislation on the suppression of the financing of terrorism and money-laundering. It was planning to host with UNDP a conference on strengthening international cooperation in combating financial crime, which would provide an opportunity for judges, prosecutors and other officials to exchange experiences and best practices.

4. As part of the continuing efforts to restructure and strengthen the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), his Government had supported the Global Programme against Money-Laundering and had assisted in supporting the development of financial-intelligence units in smaller financial centres.

5. The importance of the rule of law in combating crime could not be stressed enough, and his delegation welcomed the emphasis on that theme at the current session of the General Assembly. There would be no short-term or long-term gain to be had from ignoring the rule of law.

6. With regard to international drug control, the task of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNODC was becoming increasingly difficult, as efforts to reduce demand and supply of illicit drugs remained far from satisfactory. More international cooperation and donor support was needed, especially in those parts of the world where illicit drug production was linked to security threats.

7. **Mr. Neil** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that globalization, with all its promise of increased prosperity, also had a dark side manifested in the development of linkages and the transfer of criminal activity across borders in the form of multinational crime syndicates. Their impact on social, economic and political life, particularly in developing countries, was overwhelming. The United Nations had risen to the challenge of establishing international legal frameworks and support to national efforts to tackle the problem. Some 147 countries had become parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption had just been adopted.

8. CARICOM welcomed the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity (A/59/205). Technical assistance for the prevention of terrorism had expanded considerably during the period under review, but that expansion should not be at the expense of the critical area of strengthening the capacity of law-enforcement mechanisms.

9. The illicit drug trade threatened to reverse years of effort to build fragile economies and move towards sustainable development. A clear link had been

established between the illicit trade in narcotic drugs and increased use of small arms. The Caribbean region was a trans-shipment point between the large drug producers and the lucrative markets of the United States and Europe, which had a negative impact on its economic development. Given the profits to be gained from such activity, dealers invested heavily in protecting the trade, causing a rise in violence and presenting real challenges to law enforcement. CARICOM called for international assistance to transit States to enhance interdiction efforts, along with a more balanced approach to reductions in demand and supply. A serious political commitment to implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the adoption of an international convention were also needed.

10. Concerted action against the world drug problem and transnational organized crime could help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and create an environment of peace and sustainable development for future generations.

11. **Ms. Chassoul** (Costa Rica) said that the globalization of crime required a global response. Regional agreements to address the challenges of organized crime, such as those recently signed by CARICOM, were also extremely important in enhancing capacity and strengthening partnerships.

12. Terrorism, a major threat faced by the current generation, could not be justified in any way. While honouring its victims and reiterating the strong commitment to bring its perpetrators to justice, however, world leaders were also committed to upholding democratic values, defending human rights and promoting a multilateral approach with full respect for international law in their efforts to combat it. The United Nations should lead the effort in the fight against international terrorism. It must maximize its limited resources by avoiding overlapping. The events of 11 September 2001 were not isolated actions, and many others had died since then. The fight against terrorism and its root causes must become a permanent activity of the United Nations.

13. The Government of Costa Rica was suggesting that the General Assembly should begin an in-depth review of the various United Nations mandates and bodies dealing with terrorism, with the aim of eliminating duplication, unifying resources and centralizing decision-making in the hands of a professional, permanent and impartial body within the Organization, through the establishment of a United Nations High Commissioner on Terrorism (A/59/383-S/2004/758).

14. There was a common threat, to which there must be a common answer. Her delegation welcomed all ideas and proposals aimed at the construction of such an institution.

15. **Mr. Alimov** (Tajikistan), speaking on behalf of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), said that the urgency and scope of the problems associated with illicit drug trafficking clearly illustrated the global nature of the threat to international stability and security. Although Tajikistan did not produce any narcotics, it was located between the world's leading producer of opium and heroin and the drug-consuming countries. His Government was determined to halt the transit of narcotics through Tajikistan. In recent years it had taken a number of measures aimed at improving the control of drugs, adopted a legislative framework in line with international norms, and strengthened the capacities of law-enforcement bodies. Moreover, in 1999 it had set up the Presidential Drug Control Agency, with the assistance of the United Nations. As a result of those various measures, Tajikistan ranked among the world's five leading countries in terms of the amount of drugs confiscated, and the number of drug-related crimes committed in Tajikistan had fallen. However, it remained vital to strengthen collective efforts to combat the threat of drugs, enhance cooperation, and continue to improve working methods.

16. Because Afghanistan had long been one of the world's major drug-producing centres, the drugs trade had rapidly established itself as part of Central Asia's "shadow economy". Therefore, in accordance with the principles of the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the international community should give Afghanistan the maximum possible support and assistance in its efforts to deal with the drug problem.

17. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria) said that the international community must demonstrate a firm and unequivocal commitment to tackle the link between illicit drug trafficking, terrorism and other crime. As the Secretary-General had recalled in his report on

international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/59/188), States had made a commitment, through the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, to achieve significant progress in the reduction of illicit drug supply and demand by the year 2008. However, as UNODC noted in Volume 1 of its *World Drug Report 2004*, the results achieved thus far were mixed. The fact that Algeria was a transit region for drugs and also lay close to the centres of drug production was not without consequences for its people. The trafficking in, and increased use of, narcotics and psychotropic substances was a matter of great concern to the authorities which, in recent years, had been striving to provide the resources, and take the measures needed to combat the problem.

18. However, domestic efforts alone would not suffice. As the Secretary-General had noted in his report on international cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime (A/59/204) and his report on strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in preventing and combating terrorism (A/59/187), international cooperation was more important than ever to combating organized crime, and was essential to the fight against terrorism.

19. Algeria had itself suffered grievously from terrorism over the past decade, and had always advocated a concerted approach, having ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols. Furthermore, his delegation endorsed the recommendation made by the Secretary-General in document A/59/187 on the need to reaffirm the importance of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, and of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice scheduled for April 2005. The precarious financial situation of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was a matter of great concern, and required urgent action by Member States, and Algeria was determined to play its part.

20. **Mr. Lee** Chul (Republic of Korea) said that transnational organized crime continued to expand, threatening the very fabric of societies and causing untold suffering to vulnerable groups. The entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two of its protocols was therefore very welcome, and his delegation urged the Secretariat to strengthen its efforts to promote ratification and implementation of the Convention. For its part, the Republic of Korea was currently amending its laws to bring them into line with the Convention, and hoped to ratify it shortly. Because crime was closely tied to peace and security, human rights, democracy and good governance, his delegation welcomed the agreement reached by the United Nations system's Chief Executives Board to build an effective inter-agency response to curbing transnational organized crime.

21. With respect to combating terrorism, he noted that a sustained global commitment and a comprehensive set of actions were required, at both the domestic and international levels, and that the universal implementation of the 12 major conventions and protocols related to terrorism, and their full implementation, were also essential. His Government had recently enacted two laws on the prevention and punishment of human trafficking and the protection of its victims, and had also taken an active part in the Bali process to discuss solutions to human trafficking and the closely related issue of illegal immigration. Corruption was a global threat, hampering States' efforts to achieve justice, social development and the rule of law. The 2003 United Nations Convention against Corruption was a major achievement. His delegation hoped that it would enter into force as soon as possible, and wished to reiterate the importance of participation by civil society and the private sector in efforts to combat corruption. His delegation also attached great importance to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2005, and hoped that the Congress would help build momentum for renewing political commitment and strengthening international cooperation in that area.

22. With regard to international drug control, his delegation noted with profound concern that amphetamine-type stimulants were the second most widely used substance, and that their use had recently increased in all regions of the world. The Republic of Korea had virtually eliminated domestic manufacturing and trafficking of such stimulants, but it was alarmed by the increase in their use in the South-East Asia, East Asia and Pacific region. It therefore welcomed the continued efforts of UNODC to encourage cooperation in efforts to combat synthetic drugs. Protecting young people from illicit drug use was a crucial part of

demand reduction, and his Government was taking various measures in that regard.

23. As illicit drug-related transactions became more international in nature, building cooperative relationships among the law-enforcement agencies and judicial authorities of the countries concerned became increasingly important. Through international cooperation, his Government had achieved notable successes in punishing illicit drug producers and traffickers. At the regional level, it annually hosted the Anti-Drug Liaison Officials Meeting for International Cooperation, which enabled countries to exchange information on illicit drug control practices. Protecting financial systems from money-laundering was another key element of the fight against the production of, and trafficking in, illicit drugs. His delegation noted with concern the increasing use of drug trafficking proceeds to finance terrorist activities, and welcomed the efforts of UNODC to promote anti-money-laundering legislation.

24. **Ms. Chan** (Singapore) observed that the drug trade spanned the whole world, by way of a global supply chain, and there were now fewer natural barriers to the movement of drugs across borders. Properly enforced drug laws and effective, efficient transnational cooperation and coordination among drug and law-enforcement agencies of every Member State were therefore essential. Adequate resources and political will were also required, in order to ensure concrete action and sustainable results. Halting the supply of illicit drugs required not only arresting the traffickers, dealers and couriers, but also tracking down and bringing to justice the masterminds and organizations running drug-production networks. In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of drug-control measures, farmers must be provided with feasible alternatives to drug production. Furthermore, it was essential not to neglect the security-related aspects, because instability and conflict provided fertile ground for the production, trafficking and abuse of drugs.

25. In order to reduce demand, people — particularly those at risk — must be educated, and those who abused drugs must receive rehabilitation. Other major factors that must be addressed included corruption, money-laundering, the spread of blood-borne diseases such as HIV/AIDS and the financing of terrorist groups. Singapore's domestic drug strategy focused on cutting demand and supply, through legislation, vigorous law enforcement, rehabilitation and education. At the regional level, her country's drug-enforcement agency worked closely with its counterparts in other countries to penetrate and destroy international drug syndicates. There was no drug production in Singapore, and the number of drug users had fallen by 70 per cent over the past decade. It was a party to all three major international drug-control treaties and was on course to meet the goals set out in the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session.

26. **Mr. Reyes Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that the doctrines imposed by the world's leading imperialist Powers had led to an increase in global crime. Member States should not deceive themselves that the battle against crime was being won, because they lacked the capacity to address the root causes of domestic and international crime, and the imperialist Powers had shirked their responsibilities in that regard.

27. However, his country believed that progress was possible, and wished to suggest a number of approaches. It was necessary to set up domestic and international systems that gave priority to comprehensive education, free of discrimination. The principle of the shared responsibility of all States to confront the problem of transnational crime, in accordance with international law and the principles of the Charter, should be made a reality. The necessary financial and human-literacy programmes should be provided for massive literacy programmes, by reducing military spending by the big industrial nations or imposing taxes on speculative financial transactions. Ambitious job-creation programmes should be implemented, particularly for youth. In that regard, a significant contribution could be made by developing and improving basic social services. The practice of awarding most-favoured-nation status on a unilateral basis should be brought to an end, as it merely served as a pretext for imposing politically motivated enforcement measures against developing countries. Attempts to transform national armies into the protectors of transnational capital efforts should be halted. The exercise of terror through power, and the threat and use of force on the basis of unquestioned military superiority, should be halted, as should the use of illegal doctrines such as the supposed right to take pre-emptive action. War was no way to eradicate poverty, inequality, injustice, hunger, corruption and terrorism.

28. Lastly, it was necessary to promote universal ratification and implementation, without discrimination, of major international instruments on terrorism, international drug control, transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, corruption and illegal trafficking in migrants.

29. Despite having had to endure, for over four decades, the criminal embargo imposed by the United States Government, Cuba was proud of its many achievements in the areas of crime prevention, criminal justice and the struggle against the global drug problem. Domestically, Cuba was engaged in a profound social revolution, focused in particular on improving the comprehensive education of children and the population as a whole, as the cornerstone of crime prevention. At the global level, it had given ample proof of its commitment to international cooperation in the struggle against transnational crime and the drug problem, participating in the various international forums and the related multilateral mechanisms. Moreover, it had repeatedly expressed its willingness to cooperate with the United States, but its proposals had been rejected. Despite the embargo, and the hostility and continued aggression endured by the Cuban people as a result of the United States Government's imperialist policy, Cuba would make every effort to ensure that its territory was not used to carry out criminal actions against Americans or against any other peoples of the world.

30. **Mr. Gzlal** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, as reflected in the Secretary-General's report, the international community had made some progress in recent years in combating the scourge of drug abuse. Yet in some parts of the world, demand had increased and the problem continued to present a challenge for the international community. Efforts to fulfil the commitments made at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly must be intensified.

31. Libya was not a drug-producing country and indeed had little experience of the problem. Given its geographical and strategic position between three continents where producer and consumer countries existed, however, it must work to ensure it did not become a transit zone. It had made efforts at all levels to implement the international instruments to which it was a party, not least by adopting legislation imposing harsh punishments for drugs-related crimes, which in many cases overlapped with other forms of transnational organized crime.

32. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya took note of the Secretary-General's report on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/59/175). It had made its contribution to the Institute and hoped other countries would do likewise. His delegation requested the Secretary-General to work towards ensuring the Institute obtained the financial and technical assistance it required.

33. The 2003 United Nations Convention against Corruption was the first international instrument to combat corruption. Like crime, however, corruption knew no borders and was a threat to economic activity and development, and a more coordinated approach needed to be taken by policy makers and decision makers if it was to be rooted out.

34. His delegation took the view that State terrorism was a type of organized crime. Its root causes, however, could not be dealt with if it was not clearly defined. Its eradication required the elimination of double standards: it should not be condemned when committed by one State against another but condoned when committed by the other State. It should not be associated with any particular religion or culture, and his delegation could not accept that a people's struggle against occupation should be equated with terrorism. He called for an international conference to be held on the subject.

35. **Mr. Rastam** (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that, since 1997, ASEAN had instituted various regional mechanisms to combat transnational crime. It was committed to strengthening regional and international cooperation, notably through the activities of its Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime in implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime in several specific areas, including information exchange; cooperation and law enforcement, law and legal matters; and training and capacity-building.

36. ASEAN was taking a comprehensive and coordinated approach to transnational crime with links to terrorism and, as part of efforts to prevent and suppress the funding of terrorism, sought to enhance the flow of information and intelligence on terrorist organizations.

37. ASEAN had consistently supported the United Nations in its leading role in countering international

terrorism. The Association's members were encouraged to sign all relevant conventions and the possibility of drafting a regional convention to combat terrorism was being investigated.

38. ASEAN was committed to the eradication of the production, processing, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs in South-East Asia by 2015 and was working closely with its dialogue partners, the United Nations and other regional and non-governmental organizations to combat the drug menace in the region.

39. **Ms. Ito** (Japan) said Japan condemned all forms of terrorism and, following the recent heinous attack on innocent victims in Beslan, Russian Federation, urged all Member States to become parties to the relevant international instruments as a matter of urgency. It hoped the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC would continue to cooperate with other relevant United Nations bodies in providing legal assistance to Member States in that area.

40. Her Government was determined to strengthen its policy on human trafficking, one of the most serious of transnational crimes and one that violated the fundamental human rights of its victims. Cooperation between source, transit and destination countries was essential, however; her Government was already making great efforts to promote such cooperation at all levels and hoped that UNODC and other international organizations would contribute as well.

41. Japan considered that demand reduction had an important part to play in drug control and hoped that the provision of effective treatment for users would result in a substantial drop in consumption. Japan was a major contributor to a UNODC demand-reduction project in Afghanistan, a country where the drug problem was of considerable concern to the international community because of its role in financing terrorism. As to the "harm-reduction" approach favoured by some countries, Japan believed it might in fact encourage further drug abuse and undermine international efforts to combat the problem.

42. The abuse of synthetic drugs was an increasing problem because of the ease with which such drugs could be produced. Reduction in supply depended to a very large extent on precursor control and Japan therefore welcomed the initiative of the International Narcotics Control Board in that regard.

43. **Mr. Cuenco** (Philippines) said the rampaging criminality that had proliferated unchecked for many years had become the most devastating problem the world faced. Crime networks expanded across the world by the same means that propelled economic globalization, but their activities destabilized society and undermined development and poverty-eradication measures.

44. His own Government, in its efforts to promote domestic security, had found that the involvement of ordinary citizens was often a vital element in the war on crime. At a higher level, and with support from the international community, the armed forces and police had been undergoing modernization in order to improve their response to criminal threats; the Philippines also continued to cooperate with its neighbours in the ASEAN region in their efforts to combat transnational crime.

45. Given the profound impact of drug abuse and trafficking on human health and sustainable development, and the drugs-crime-terrorism nexus, national and global efforts must address the problem in a more integrated manner. The approach adopted in the Philippines tackled both supply and demand and included a development and reform package, a people-empowerment campaign and enhanced coordination with other countries and international drug-control agencies.

46. Despite the commitments of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, drug cultivation and use continued to expand. The talking had gone on long enough; a change of strategy was required. The Philippines proposed that a new multilateral extradition treaty should be drafted under United Nations auspices in order to make it possible for international narcotics criminals to be returned to their own countries for trial and conviction.

47. **Mr. Israeli** (Israel) said that, as a party to the major conventions on narcotics, Israel had put in place legislation allowing the seizure of assets acquired through drug trafficking and the monitoring of suspicious banking and financial transactions and money-laundering. It had also established a statutory corporation directly responsible to the Prime Minister — the Israeli Anti-Drug Authority — which had developed a network of services to combat drug abuse by tackling both supply and demand.

48. The Authority's main targets for 2004 were to change the public atmosphere regarding drug usage; to implement prevention and/or rehabilitation programmes for target groups including parents, workers, young people and immigrants; and to include the drug issue in basic training for selected professional groups.

49. Both the Government and the Authority were cooperating in efforts at the regional and international levels to link the fight against drugs with the issues of terrorism, crime and corruption, and, through bilateral agreements in particular, to exchange information and expertise with other nations. Only through such cooperation and by ensuring that international instruments were applied could the scourge of drugs be eradicated.

50. **Mrs. Abeysekera** (Sri Lanka) said that her country was committed to combating crime and drugs and to creating a regime of criminal justice, and had adopted a number of legislative measures and national and international mechanisms to that end. The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act (2002) had enabled her country to take part in international mutual assistance, which was crucial to combating transnational crime. A number of bills designed to bolster the Constitution and judicial system were also under consideration: the Bail (Amendment) Bill, aimed at restricting the grounds of anticipatory bail; the Prevention of Computer Crimes Bill, which sought to criminalize misuse and abuse of computers; the Domestic Violence Bill, which provided for special remedies via protection orders issued by the courts; the Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, aimed at bringing trafficking and the objectives thereof within its remit; the Data Protection Bill, to protect unauthorized use of data; and e-commerce legislation, to provide a legal framework for electronic commercial transactions.

51. There were 50,000 heroin users and 200,000 cannabis users in Sri Lanka today, most of whom were young people. Her country was not only a party to several international drug conventions, but also implemented policies that reflected the spirit of those conventions. Its national drug policy of 1992 was being strengthened with a view to reducing drug abuse significantly by the end of the decade, and legislation to ensure sufficient precursor control was being drawn up with the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, in close cooperation with the Regional Precursor Control Project of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Regional Office for South Asia.

52. New legislation was also being prepared (a) on poisons and dangerous drugs, which made money-laundering from illicit drug trafficking a criminal offence; (b) to give effect to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1990); and (c) to provide for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

53. Her delegation welcomed the efforts made by United Nations agencies, in particular UNODC, in helping her country to reduce and eliminate drug demand and supply.

54. **Mr. Choi** (Australia) said that people smuggling and trafficking in persons were serious crimes that challenged the right of countries to protect their own borders. Such activities had the potential to undermine the effectiveness and integrity of both the international refugee-protection system and legal migration programmes. His country was taking strong measures to combat those crimes, including prosecuting and extraditing the perpetrators. It had recently ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and would shortly ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. He urged all Governments to do the same.

55. To be effective, Governments needed to act together. Cooperation continued to be the hallmark of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the membership of which included source, transit and destination countries as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration. An emphasis on practical workshops had helped foreign, justice, law-enforcement and immigration ministries in the region to be increasingly cooperative and effective in combating people smuggling and trafficking. His country would continue to work in the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime to achieve similar goals.

56. In June, delegates to the Bali Process Senior Officials' Meeting had agreed that some work, including legislation to criminalize people smuggling and trafficking, had been completed. They recommended that the Bali process should continue to focus on areas where it could add value, such as law enforcement and border control; trafficking in persons and child sex tourism; and mutual assistance and extradition. The Bali process web site would be further developed as a capacity-building tool.

57. The Bali process had underlined the importance of cooperation in the fight against transnational crime. As long as smuggling and trafficking persisted, his country would work with other Governments in the region to find transnational solutions.

58. **Mrs. Ahmed** (Sudan) said that the fight against drugs was a collective responsibility that called for a balanced and integrated approach that was in line with the Charter and international law, and fully respected the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries and human rights. Her country was a party to international drug conventions. Those who fought the phenomenon deserved the support of the international community, and international cooperation was therefore essential.

59. Her delegation welcomed the fact that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had continued to assess the progress made by Governments in meeting the goals set out by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. Multilateral and bilateral cooperation at the national and regional levels was essential, as was support for developing countries. In that respect, she called on the international community to support African countries and African regional organizations. She emphasized the need to fight poverty in order to improve access to education and raise awareness among young people. She hoped that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime would play a pivotal role through its programmes in Africa and thereby help strengthen the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Her delegation welcomed international efforts to implement the plan of action to reduce drug demand. There was no room, however, for leniency; drug issues must be dealt with strictly.

60. The Sudan was one of the few countries where drug use had not reached alarming levels. However, it could be used as a transit country; efforts had therefore been geared towards that area.

61. Her country had established a number of crime-prevention mechanisms and was a party to many international and bilateral crime-prevention conventions. Her Government was in the process of implementing the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and, in January 2004, her Government and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime had jointly organized a workshop on international cooperation on counter-terrorism and the fight against transnational organized crime in Khartoum. The workshop had culminated in the Khartoum Declaration on Terrorism and Transnational Crime, in which the States of the region had reiterated their commitment to fighting those phenomena and expressed their serious concern about the menace they posed for the region. They had also stressed their technical-assistance needs with regard to the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols.

62. Her delegation welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2003; her country believed it was important to fight corruption at the international level, especially given its impact on peace, security and national economies.

63. **Mr. Meyer** (Brazil), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that six years had passed since a firm commitment to overcome the world drugs problem had been expressed in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Despite considerable efforts by many, the objectives set out for 2003 had been only partially met, while those for 2008 appeared increasingly unattainable. Meeting commitments to reduce drug consumption continued, however, to be imperative.

64. The international community was far from meeting the goal of eradicating illegal drug production, trafficking and consumption, and constantly faced new obstacles and challenges. Drug-trafficking organizations had multiplied, diversified and merged with other criminal groups, complicating the work of judicial authorities. Many crimes were now associated with drug trafficking, such as contraband in chemical precursors and weapons, money-laundering, corruption, trafficking in persons, terrorism and ordinary crime. Moreover, drug consumption was increasing, particularly synthetic-drug consumption and especially among young people.

65. His delegation therefore urged all States to establish, implement, strengthen and improve controls on the trafficking, diversion and smuggling of chemical precursors and substances, to prevent the production of both natural and synthetic illicit drugs. The harmful effects of drugs could be seen at all levels of society and had various manifestations, such as in the increase in domestic violence, HIV/AIDS infection rates, environmental destruction and the destabilization of economic, social and political systems.

66. The issue, though not new, continued to be very serious; an integral and coordinated response by all Member States was therefore essential. Drugs affected all countries and his region was no exception. Despite considerable achievements in dismantling drug cartels, those groups had fragmented into small organizations which used new methods and routes. There was therefore a need for judicial systems to be continually updated, and for new strategies at all levels.

67. Various evaluation and coordination mechanisms had been established in recent years, such as the Organization of American States' Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, which regularly measured the counter-drug activities of all countries in the region. The mechanism — which was the only one based on evaluation between equals and produced regular country and regional reports — had effectively combated illicit drug production and trafficking, and had allowed for unprecedented cooperation across the continent. His country therefore called on all States to consider setting up similar mechanisms in their own regions to pave the way for more effective international cooperation.

68. Illicit drugs had innumerable negative consequences, affecting all levels of society and threatening the stability of families, Governments and nations. It was essential for nations to continue fighting tirelessly against transnational criminal organizations by renewing their commitment to meeting the objectives laid down in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration.

69. **Mr. Dall'Oglio** (International Organization for Migration) said that people smuggling and human trafficking had become a major political and security issue for the international community and was the third largest source of profits for international organized crime, with an estimated $10 billion generated in profits and between 600,000 and 800,000 people trafficked each year.

70. His organization welcomed the fact that, since the previous year, two protocols supplementing the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime had entered into force and that the number of ratifications was fast increasing. However, the problem had not diminished in either size or scope, and tools and response strategies needed to be constantly readjusted. Greater international cooperation was essential in order to combat the problem and build more comprehensive migration regimes.

71. According to a recent study carried out by his organization, *Changing Patterns and Trends of Trafficking in Persons in the Balkan Region*, international criminal organizations involved in trafficking had adapted their methods to avoid detection and increase profitability, using legal travel documents, corruption, the Internet, telephone communications, female traffickers and other strategies to reduce visibility. So while on the surface the phenomenon appeared less evident, other serious forms of exploitation were widespread. A continuous effort was therefore needed to identify new modes of trafficking and to adjust national and international prevention, prosecution and protection responses to changes in the modus operandi of criminal groups.

72. Innovative approaches were also needed to replace irregular flows with regular migration channels. At a time of enhanced security concerns, it was important to foster public confidence in a reliable migration-management system, while at the same time not stifling the legitimate movement of persons or jeopardizing their privacy or personal rights and liberties. His organization was helping numerous countries to enhance their capacity in various areas, and continued to promote further ratifications of the Convention and its protocols and to support States parties in the complex measures necessary for their implementation.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.